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Brief Narrative of the Proceedings of *W. Penn*.

Showing his arbitrary dealings there.
14. Febr. 170$\frac{2}{3}$.

AT the first Arrival of our Proprietor and Governour, we all waited upon him by way of Complement; he was pleas'd to express his Thanks and well liking of it, telling us withal, That it should be his chiefest Care and Endeavour to Redress all Grievances, to reconcile all Contending Parties, to secure every Man's Estate, to administer Justice impartially, without Favour or Affection, in relation to Opinions, and to make in the end every thing as even as his two Eyes; together with excellent Promises, and many Words.

Pursuant to an Order from the Court of *England*, he degraded the late Nominal Lieutenant Governour *Markham*, *David Lloyd* Clerk and Attorney-General, and one *Anthony Morris* Chief Justice of their Offices for Male-Administration. These Invaders of our Estates, Liberties and Properties, being removed from their High Places, we thought our selves in a fair way of enjoying our own with Freedom, Peace and Safety.

When Time came to elect for the Assembly and Council, the Truth and the Light of our Proprietor began to be visible, by making his personal Appearance at the place of Election; by his exhorting the People, above all things, to be sure of Electing none but such as were Friends to the Government lodged in him; by asserting that no Person was qualified either to Elect or be Elected that would swear, which is an ambiguous word, and by diminishing the number of Church-men, telling the Mobb, that they could not be above a Dozen or two at the most (tho at the same time there was near three hundred Votes for one of our Church-Wardens) by these and the like Insinuations, he procured Creatures of his own stamp and kidney to be Elected.

At the sitting of the Assembly, our Governour and Proprietor moved vehemently to have a very large Sum of Money (by way of Gift) for him; solemnly urging to the Members the Justice of the thing, since it had cost him near twenty thousand pounds in *England* to defend the Government (for their sakes) against the scurrilous Letters of the Malecontents in the Province. At length, after a long Debate and much Time spent, (by his cunning Insinuation) he prevailed so far upon the Assembly, as to have the Charter, which he had formerly granted, surrender'd unto him, and thereby became Absolute, without any Limitation or Restraint; and upon many Prayers, Preachings and Expostulations (according to his way) an Impost was laid upon *Wine*, *Beer*, *&c.* for two years, amounting to something better than 1600 *l. per annum*, solely for his own private Use.

When the Assembly broke up, he declared it was his Mind, Will and Pleasure, to let some of the Church-men have a share with him in their Government, and accordingly, with many fair Intreaties, and smooth Endearments, he seduced three of our Vestry (with much Reluctancy) to accept of his Offer, and having given his *Dedimus Potestatem* unto the Secretary of the Province to swear them, according to Law; they were pack'd in his Commission amongst six strong *Foxonian Quakers*, one *Swede*, and a *Sweet Singer of Israel*, to serve as Justices for the City and County of *Philadelphia*.

But the Event plainly demonstrated the Design and Intrigue of making these three Men Justices; for at the Quarter-Sessions, the Court being opened, the first Person that was required to give his Evidence, demanded an Oath to be administred unto him, and not an Attest, that he might have the greater Tye and Obligation to speak Truth, especially since the Attest had been for some time so horribly abused in that Province: the Church-men replied to this Effect, That his Demand was just and reasonable; and that they did suppose themselves to be sworn and authorized to sit there, to the end that an Oath might be administred unto those who were no Quakers, and were willing to take one; but the six Quakers immediately put a stop to the Proceedings, declaring that they neither would nor ould in Conscience sit in that Court where was Swearing, and therefore one Party must hdraw. The Necessity of Oaths was again urged to them, since now near two parts in , throughout the Province, were no Quakers; and howsoever an Attest might be ng upon some Quakers, yet (by many sad Instances) it was very plain and obvious,

That the Generality of them had little or no regard for what they ſpake when only Atteſted.

Moreover, that the Equity of the Cauſe required the ſame Liberty for Men of other Perſuaſions, beſides Quakers, to give their Evidence according to their own Way and Profeſſion, but nothing would do, nor no Arguments (tho never ſo rational) prevail, they were reſolved that no Oath ſhould be adminiſter'd in the Province.

The Church-men, willing to condeſcend to any thing for Peace (with regard to their Oaths) propoſed the TEST preſcribed by Act of Parliament in *England* for Quakers, to be tender'd to them; but that was alſo rejected, becauſe the Name of God was inſerted, and therefore look'd upon as abominable as Book Oaths; beſides their Argument extended ſo far as the Rejection of Acts of Parliament made in *England*, wherein the Plantations in *America* were not particularly ſpecified; inſiſting upon their own Power to make Laws ſufficient for Government here, and accordingly they had a Law in the Province impowering them to give Evidence, by promiſing to ſpeak the Truth, without the Name of God.

Our Governour outwardly endeavoured to promote a Union and a Reconciling of this unhappy Difference; Remonſtrating that from his Cradle no Misfortune grieved him ſo much as this Quarrel among his Miniſters; and that for his part he had taken the Atteſt preſcribed by Act of Parliament in *England*, and ſhould be ready, upon occaſion to take it again; and furthermore, urged to his own People, That they might ſit upon the Bench whilſt an Oath was given, and not be concerned with it; but the Quakers being obſtinate, and deaf to his Charms, the Scene was preſently changed, by making his perſonal Appearance in the Court, laying the whole Blame upon the Church-men, charging them with raiſing a Flame in the Province, inſomuch that he muſt be conſtrained to ride up and down the Countrey, and ſhew his Letters Patents, to ſatisfie the People of his Authority; and furthermore, charged them with Breach of Truſt, for not leaving the Court privately, that his own People might manage their Affairs after their own way. After a long Harangue, of this Nature, he at length commands one *Edward Shippen* (Chief Juſtice and principal Stickler againſt Swearing) to pull the Commiſſion out of his pocket, which he had before given him, and then, with a high and mighty Geſture, he ſuddenly declared, That he was a Palatinate, and therefore would exert his Authority; That his Commiſſion ſhould go no more a begging, but that they ſhould know that his Power was far greater than any of the King's Governours in *America*; adding afterwards, That the King had given this Province to him and his People, that they might be free from Oaths, and if his Majeſty ſhould impoſe Oaths upon him and his People, he might charge him with the Breach of Faith.

In this new Commiſſion the ſix *Quakers*, the *Swede*, and the *Sweet Singer of Iſrael* were continued, but the three *Churchmen* were caſt out. That this was a premeditated Deſign is plain, from the Commiſſion given before-hand to the principal Oppoſer of Oaths and the Parliamentary Teſt. Beſides, it's well known that Oaths have been all along adminiſtred in the ſame Court, and before the ſame Men, by other Juſtices qualified, ever ſince it has been a Government; and as for the Teſt, preſcribed by Act of Parliament, it was always made uſe of, till of late, by the Quakers themſelves.

The TRUTH and Subſtance of the Matter is this;

Theſe three Men (being Men of Subſtance and Reputation in the Province) were deſigned, if they would have comply'd with their Frantick Humours to be made Tools of, and under the Sanction of their Names to have acted as many Villainies as they have formerly done; but if not, to be ſpew'd out, as Perſons not fit to carry on their Intrigues and Intereſt.

> The Noble Principles of our Religion teach us not to reſent ſuch Affronts, but it grieves us at this time, that all the *Church of England Men* ſhould be ſtigmatized with the grim and horrid Titles of Treacherous and Perfidious Fellows, Diſſenters and Schiſmaticks from the Eſtabliſh'd Religion, which is *Quakeriſm*; Intruders and Invaders in the Province: and above all, that our Proprietor and Governour is reſolved, and will be *Aut Cæſar aut Nullus.*

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